

REMARKS

In the December 20, 2006 Notice of Allowance, claims 1 and 8-10 were allowed.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the December 20, 2006 Office Action, Applicants have added claims 26-31 as indicated above. Thus, claims 1, 8-10, and 26-31 are pending, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Interview Summary

On January 4, 2007, the undersigned conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Haupt, who is in charge of the above-identified patent application. Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Haupt for the opportunity to discuss the above-identified patent application during the Interview of January 4, 2007. During the interview, it was stated that an Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.312 would be considered.

Compliance with MPEP §714.16(a)

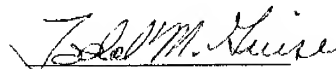
In accordance with the rules stated in MPEP §714.16(a), Applicants respectfully assert that this amendment is needed to replace original claims 2-7, which is why claims 26-31 were not presented earlier. Since these claims ultimately depend on allowed claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable and no additional search or examination is required.

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Entrance of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/532,814
Amendment dated January 19, 2007
Reply to Notice of Allowance dated December 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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